

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

### 1. An information service system comprising:

a first computer available for a client intending to make a request for supplying an inspection apparatus used for a circuit board;

a second computer available for a plurality of dealers including a first dealer intending to provide a circuit-board inspection apparatus or a component of circuit-board inspection apparatuses; and

a third computer capable of communicating with said first computer and said second computer via a communication line, said third computer being adapted to receive said request from said first computer, wherein

said third computer including:

means for receiving a board-specification information defining a specification of said circuit board from said first computer;

means for providing said received board-specification information to said second computer;

means for receiving a product information from said second computer, said product information defining the circuit-board inspection apparatus or the component of circuit-board inspection apparatuses which is prepared for said board-specification information and is providable from said first dealer; and

means for providing said received product information to said first computer.

### 2. An information service system as defined in claim 1, wherein said third computer includes:

means for receiving an order of the circuit-board inspection apparatus or the component of circuit-board inspection apparatuses from said first computer, said circuit-board inspection apparatus or the component being selected by said client according to said product information; and

means for notifying the receipt of said order to said second computer according to

the content of said received order.

3. An information service system as defined in claim 1, wherein said second computer is available for a second dealer intending to provide an after-sale service of circuit-board inspection apparatuses or components of circuit-board inspection apparatuses, wherein said third computer includes:

means for receiving a demand of said client for an after-sale service from said first computer, said after-sale service relating to said circuit-board inspection apparatus or said component of inspection apparatuses which has been purchased by said client from said first dealer; and

means for notifying said received demand to said second computer available for said first dealer who has sold said circuit-board inspection apparatus or said component of circuit-board inspection apparatuses, or for said second dealer intending to provide said after-sale service.

4. An information service system as defined in claim 1, wherein said third computer includes:

means for receiving from said first computer at least either one of a desired delivery date of the circuit-board inspection apparatus, a desired cost of the circuit-board inspection apparatus, and an equipment information defining a circuit-board inspection equipment owned by said client; and

means for providing the product information prepared for said delivery date, said cost and said equipment information to said first computer.

5. An information service system as defined in claim 1, wherein said third computer includes a dealer database storing a dealer information defined for each of said dealers.

6. An information service system as defined in claim 5, wherein said dealer information includes a contact address, size, transaction record, product list and trouble

in transaction of each of said dealers.

7. An information service system as defined in claim 1, wherein said third computer includes a client database storing a client information defining said client.

8. An information service system as defined in claim 7, wherein said client information includes a contact address, request history, content of equipment owned by said client, and troubles in dealing of said client.

9. An information service system as defined in claim 1, wherein said third computer provides the board-specification information to said second computer available for said first dealer according to said received board-specification information, said first dealer handling the circuit-board inspection apparatus or the component of circuit-board inspection apparatuses which is suitable for inspecting said circuit board.

10. An information service system as defined in claim 1, wherein said third computer includes:

means for producing a management table for said request when said board-specification information is received; and

means for storing said management table in association with said board-specification information.

11. An information service apparatus capable of communicating with a first computer and a second computer via a communication line, said first computer being available for a client intending to make a request for supplying an inspection apparatus used for a circuit board, said second computer being available for a dealer intending to provide a circuit-board inspection apparatus or a component of circuit-board inspection apparatuses, wherein said information service apparatus is adapted to receive said request from said first computer, said information service apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a board-specification information defining a specification of said circuit board from said first computer;

means for providing said received board-specification information to said second computer;

means for receiving a product information from said second computer, said product information defining the circuit-board inspection apparatus or the component of circuit-board inspection apparatuses which is prepared for said board-specification information and is providable from said dealer; and

means for providing said received product information to said first computer.

12. An information acquisition apparatus capable of communicating with a first computer via a communication line, said first computer being capable of communicating with a second computer via a communication line and receiving a request for supplying an inspection apparatus used for a circuit board, said second computer being available for a dealer intending to provide a circuit-board inspection apparatus or a component of circuit-board inspection apparatuses, said information acquisition apparatus comprising:

means for providing a request for supplying an inspection apparatus used for a circuit board, and a board-specification information defining a specification of said circuit board to said first computer; and

means for acquiring from said first computer a product information provided from said second computer to said first computer, said product information defining the circuit-board inspection apparatus or the component of circuit-board inspection apparatuses which is prepared for said board-specification information and is providable from said dealer.

13. An information service apparatus capable of communicating with a first computer via a communication line, said first computer being capable of communicating via a communication line with a second computer available for a client intending to make a request for supplying an inspection apparatus used for a circuit board, said first computer

being adapted to receive said request from said second computer, said information service apparatus comprising:

means for acquiring from said first computer a board-specification information provided from said second computer to said first computer, said board-specification information defining a specification of said circuit board related to said request; and

means for providing a product information to said first computer, said product information defining the circuit-board inspection apparatus or the component of circuit-board inspection apparatuses which is prepared for said board-specification information.

14. An information service method for providing information about an inspection apparatus to a client making a request for supplying an inspection apparatus used for a circuit board, said information service method comprising the steps of:

receiving from said client a board-specification information defining a specification of said circuit board;

providing said received board-specification information to a dealer intending to provide a circuit-board inspection apparatus or a component of circuit-board inspection apparatuses;

receiving a product information defining the circuit-board inspection apparatus or the component of circuit-board inspection apparatuses which is prepared for said board-specification information and is providable from said dealer; and

providing said received product information to said client.

15. A recording medium on which is recorded a program allowing a first computer to function as specific means, said first computer being capable of communicating with a second computer and a third computer via a communication line, said second computer being available for a client intending to make a request for supplying an inspection apparatus used for a circuit board, said third computer available for a dealer intending to provide a circuit-board inspection apparatus or a component of circuit-board inspection

apparatuses, said first computer being adapted to receive said request from said second computer, said specific means including:

means for receiving a board-specification information defining a specification of said circuit board from said second computer;

means for providing said received board-specification information to said third computer;

means for receiving a product information from said third computer, said product information defining the circuit-board inspection apparatus or the component of circuit-board inspection apparatuses which is prepared for said board-specification information and is providable from said dealer; and

means for providing said received product information to said second computer.

16. A recording medium on which is recorded a program allowing a first computer to function as specific means, said first computer being capable of communicating with a second computer via a communication line, said second computer being capable of communicating with a third computer via a communication line and receiving a request for supplying an inspection apparatus used for a circuit board, said third computer being available for a dealer intending to provide a circuit-board inspection apparatus or a component of circuit-board inspection apparatuses, said specific means including:

means for providing a request for supplying an inspection apparatus used for a circuit board, and a board-specification information defining a specification of said circuit board to said second computer; and

means for acquiring from said second computer a product information provided from said third computer to said second computer, said product information defining the circuit-board inspection apparatus or the component of circuit-board inspection apparatuses which is prepared for said board-specification information and is providable from said dealer.

17. A recording medium on which is recorded a program allowing a first computer to

function as specific means, said first computer being capable of communicating with a second computer via a communication line, said second computer being capable of communicating via a communication line with a third computer available for a client intending to make a request for supplying an inspection apparatus used for a circuit board, said second computer being adapted to receive said request from said third computer, said specific means including:

means for acquiring from said second computer a board-specification information provided from said third computer to said second computer, said board-specification information defining a specification of said circuit board related to said request; and

means for providing a product information to said second computer, said product information defining the circuit-board inspection apparatus or the component of circuit-board inspection apparatuses which is prepared for said board-specification information.

18. An information service system comprising:

a first computer available for a client intending to make a request for a manufacturing service of a circuit board;

a second computer available for a dealer intending to provide a circuit-board manufacturing service; and

a third computer capable of communicating with said first computer and said second computer via a communication line, said third computer being adapted to receive said request from said first computer, wherein

said third computer including:

means for receiving a board-specification information defining a specification of said circuit board from said first computer;

means for providing said received board-specification information to said second computer;

means for receiving a product information from said second computer, said product information being related to the circuit board which is prepared for said

board-specification information and is providable from said first dealer; and  
means for providing said received product information to said first computer.

19. An information service system as defined in claim 18, wherein said product information includes at least either one of a cost, delivery-date and available number for sale of said circuit board.

20. An information service apparatus capable of communicating with a first computer and a second computer via a communication line, said first computer being available for a client intending to make a request for a manufacturing service of a circuit board, said second computer being available for a dealer intending to provide a circuit-board manufacturing service, wherein said information service apparatus is adapted to receive said request from said first computer, said information service apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a board-specification information defining a specification of said circuit board from said first computer;

means for providing said received board-specification information to said second computer;

means for receiving a product information from said second computer, said product information being related to the circuit board which is prepared for said board-specification information and is providable from said dealer; and

means for providing said received product information to said first computer.

21. An information acquisition apparatus capable of communicating with a first computer via a communication line, said first computer being capable of communicating with a second computer via a communication line and receiving a request for a manufacturing service of a circuit board, said second computer being available for a dealer intending to provide a circuit-board manufacturing service, said information acquisition apparatus comprising:

means for providing a request for a manufacturing service of a circuit board, and a



board-specification information defining a specification of said circuit board to said first computer; and

means for acquiring from said first computer a product information provided from said second computer to said first computer, said product information being related to the circuit board which is prepared for said board-specification information and is providable from said dealer.

22. An information service apparatus capable of communicating with a first computer via a communication line, said first computer being capable of communicating via a communication line with a second computer available for a client intending to make a request for a manufacturing service of a circuit board, said first computer being adapted to receive said request from said second computer, said information service apparatus comprising:

means for acquiring from said first computer a board-specification information provided from said second computer to said first computer, said board-specification information defining a specification of said circuit board related to said request; and

means for providing a product information to said first computer, said product information being related to the circuit board which is prepared for said board-specification information.

23. An information service method for providing information about a circuit-board manufacturing service to a client making a request for a manufacturing service of a circuit board, said information service method comprising the steps of:

receiving from said client a board-specification information defining a specification of said circuit board;

providing said received board-specification information to a dealer intending to provide a circuit-board manufacturing service;

receiving a product information related to the circuit board which is prepared for said board-specification information and is providable from said dealer; and

providing said received product information to said client.

24. A recording medium on which is recorded a program allowing a first computer to function as specific means, said first computer being capable of communicating with a second computer and a third computer via a communication line, said second computer being available for a client intending to make a request for a manufacturing service of a circuit board, said third computer available for a dealer intending to provide a circuit-board manufacturing service, said first computer being adapted to receive said request from said second computer, said specific means including:

means for receiving a board-specification information defining a specification of said circuit board from said second computer;

means for providing said received board-specification information to said third computer;

means for receiving a product information from said third computer, said product information being related to the circuit board which is prepared for said board-specification information and is providable from said dealer; and

means for providing said received product information to said second computer.

25. A recording medium on which is recorded a program allowing a first computer to function as specific means, said first computer being capable of communicating with a second computer via a communication line, said second computer being capable of communicating with a third computer via a communication line and receiving a request for a manufacturing service of a circuit board, said third computer being available for a dealer intending to provide a circuit-board manufacturing service, said specific means including:

means for providing a request for a manufacturing service of a circuit board, and a board-specification information defining a specification of said circuit board to said second computer; and

means for acquiring from said second computer a product information provided

from said third computer to said second computer, said product information being related to the circuit board which is prepared for said board-specification information and is providable from said dealer.

26. A recording medium on which is recorded a program allowing a first computer to function as specific means, said first computer being capable of communicating with a second computer via a communication line, said second computer being capable of communicating via a communication line with a third computer available for a client intending to make a request for a manufacturing service of a circuit board, said second computer being adapted to receive said request from said third computer, said specific means including:

means for acquiring from said second computer a board-specification information provided from said third computer to said second computer, said board-specification information defining a specification of said circuit board related to said request; and

means for providing a product information to said second computer, said product information being related to the circuit board which is prepared for said board-specification information.

27. An information service system comprising:

a first computer available for a client intending to make a request for an inspection service of a circuit board;

a second computer available for a dealer intending to provide a circuit-board inspection service; and

a third computer capable of communicating with said first computer and said second computer via a communication line, said third computer being adapted to receive said request from said first computer, wherein

said third computer including:

means for receiving a board-specification information defining a specification of said circuit board from said first computer;

means for providing said received board-specification information to said second computer;

means for receiving a service information from said second computer, said service information defining the circuit-board inspection which is prepared for said board-specification information and is practicable by said first dealer; and

means for providing said received service information to said first computer.

28. An information service system as defined in claim 27, wherein said service information includes at least either one of an inspection cost and inspection time-schedule.

29. An information service apparatus capable of communicating with a first computer and a second computer via a communication line, said first computer being available for a client intending to make a request for an inspection service of a circuit board, said second computer being available for a dealer intending to provide a circuit-board inspection service, wherein said information service apparatus is adapted to receive said request from said first computer, said information service apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a board-specification information defining a specification of said circuit board from said first computer;

means for providing said received board-specification information to said second computer;

means for receiving a service information from said second computer, said service information defining the circuit-board inspection which is prepared for said board-specification information and is practicable by said dealer; and

means for providing said received service information to said first computer.

30. An information acquisition apparatus capable of communicating with a first computer via a communication line, said first computer being capable of communicating with a second computer via a communication line and receiving a request for an

inspection service of a circuit board, said second computer being available for a dealer intending to provide a circuit-board inspection service, said information acquisition apparatus comprising:

means for providing a request for an inspection service of a circuit board, and a board-specification information defining a specification of said circuit board to said first computer; and

means for acquiring from said first computer a service information provided from said second computer to said first computer, said service information defining the circuit-board inspection which is prepared for said board-specification information and is practicable by said dealer.

31. An information service apparatus capable of communicating with a first computer via a communication line, said first computer being capable of communicating via a communication line with a second computer available for a client intending to make a request for an inspection service of a circuit board, said first computer being adapted to receive said request from said second computer, said information service apparatus comprising:

means for acquiring from said first computer a board-specification information provided from said second computer to said first computer, said board-specification information defining a specification of said circuit board related to said request; and

means for providing a service information to said first computer, said product information defining the circuit-board inspection which is prepared for said board-specification information.

32. An information service method for providing information about a circuit-board inspection service to a client making a request for an inspection service of a circuit board, said information service method comprising the steps of:

receiving from said client a board-specification information defining a specification of said circuit board;

providing said received board-specification information to a dealer intending to provide a circuit-board inspection service;

receiving a service information defining the circuit-board inspection which is practicable by said dealer; and

providing said received service information to said client.

33. A recording medium on which is recorded a program allowing a first computer to function as specific means, said first computer being capable of communicating with a second computer and a third computer via a communication line, said second computer being available for a client intending to make a request for an inspection service of a circuit board, said third computer available for a dealer intending to provide a circuit-board inspection service, said first computer being adapted to receive said request from said second computer, said specific means including:

means for receiving a board-specification information defining a specification of said circuit board from said second computer;

means for providing said received board-specification information to said third computer;

means for receiving a service information from said third computer, said service information defining the circuit-board inspection which is prepared for said board-specification information and is practicable by said dealer; and

means for providing said received service information to said second computer.

34. A recording medium on which is recorded a program allowing a first computer to function as specific means, said first computer being capable of communicating with a second computer via a communication line, said second computer being capable of communicating with a third computer via a communication line and receiving a request for an inspection service of a circuit board, said third computer being available for a dealer intending to provide a circuit-board inspection service, said specific means including:

means for providing a request for an inspection service of a circuit board, and a board-specification information defining a specification of said circuit board to said second computer; and

means for acquiring from said second computer a service information provided from said third computer to said second computer, said service information defining the circuit-board inspection which is prepared for said board-specification information and is practicable by said dealer.

35. A recording medium on which is recorded a program allowing a first computer to function as specific means, said first computer being capable of communicating with a second computer via a communication line, said second computer being capable of communicating via a communication line with a third computer available for a client intending to make a request for an inspection service of a circuit board, said second computer being adapted to receive said request from said third computer, said specific means including:

means for acquiring from said second computer a board-specification information provided from said third computer to said second computer, said board-specification information defining a specification of said circuit board related to said request; and

means for providing a service information to said second computer, said service information defining the circuit-board inspection which is prepared for said board-specification information.

36. An information service apparatus capable of communicating with a first computer available for a client intending to make a request for supplying an inspection apparatus used for a circuit board, wherein said information service apparatus is adapted to receive said request from said first computer, said information service apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a board-specification information defining a specification of said circuit board from said first computer; and

means for providing a product information to said first computer, said product

information being collected from a dealer intending to provide a circuit-board inspection apparatus or a component of circuit-board inspection apparatuses, said product information defining the circuit-board inspection apparatus or the component of circuit-board inspection apparatuses which is prepared for said received board-specification information.

37. An information service apparatus capable of communicating with a first computer available for a client intending to make a request for a manufacturing service of a circuit board, wherein said information service apparatus is adapted to receive said request from said first computer, said information service apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a board-specification information defining a specification of said circuit board from said first computer; and

means for providing a product information to said first computer, said product information being collected from a dealer intending to provide a circuit-board manufacturing service, said product information being related to the circuit board which is prepared for said received board-specification information.

38. An information service apparatus capable of communicating with a first computer available for a client intending to make a request for supplying an inspection service of a circuit board, wherein said information service apparatus is adapted to receive said request from said first computer, said information service apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a board-specification information defining a specification of said circuit board from said first computer; and

means for providing a service information to said first computer, said service information being collected from a dealer intending to provide a circuit-board inspection service, said product information defining the circuit-board inspection which is prepared for said received board-specification information and is practicable by said dealer.